



## VITTORIO GIORGINI, ARCHITECT (1926-2010): A PROJECT FOR ART / “QUADRANTE” (1961–1964)

16 June – 1 October 2017

FROM 16 JUNE TO 1 OCTOBER 2017, THE MUSEO NOVECENTO RECONSTRUCTS A PORTION OF THE HISTORIC GALLERY DESIGNED BY FLORENTINE ARCHITECT VITTORIO GIORGINI.

A show at various venues throughout the city and more; an occasion not only to rediscover the figure of the Florentine architect Vittorio Giorgini and all that his studies and his work have left to us, but also to rediscover a season abounding in cultural ferment – that of the Florence of the 1950s and 1960s – and its leading figures. Giorgini was an outstanding personality in our city’s cultural panorama in the post-WWII years; *VITTORIO GIORGINI Architetto (1926-2010)*, promoted by the Fondazione Architetti Firenze, B.A.Co. – Archivio Vittorio Giorgini, the Association of Architects of Florence, the City of Florence and Mus.e., is devoted to the architect, to his life and his work. The exhibition will range across various venues in the city and in other localities (from the Palazzina Reale to the Museo Novecento and on as far as Baratti (LI), where some of the most significant examples of Giorgini’s work are to be found). Framing the exhibition proper are meetings, lectures, workshops and collateral shows at various sites in Florence and Tuscany, staged in collaboration with the region’s foremost institutions and with international entities.

The Quadrante was one of the most important galleries on the Sixties’ Florentine art scene. And the *UN PROGETTO PER L’ARTE / “QUADRANTE” (1961–1964)* exhibition offers visitors the opportunity to visit a reconstruction of the gallery space at the Museo Novecento.

The event, on the *Secret Florence 2017* programme calendar, is part of a broader-reaching project devoted to rediscovery of the figure of Florentine architect Vittorio Giorgini, the guiding light behind the layout of the Quadrante, whose artistic director was his sister Matilde; it was a space which, in those years of Florence’s 20th-century cultural renaissance, represented a crossroads at which the main currents in the art of the time met and eddied, a point of encounter among the most prominent personalities in the art world and therefore a space for dialogue, exchange, debate and comparison.

For the first time together, the exhibition will feature artworks by – and documents relating to – major 20th-century Italian artists, some of whom are already present with their works in the museum’s collection – such as Corrado Cagli, Antonio Bueno and Alberto Moretti – and other authors of the time, Italian and foreign both, such as the French architect, sculptor and painter, founder and editor of the *Architecture d’Aujourd’hui* magazine, André Bloc, or Chilean architect and painter Robert Sebastian Matta. The paintings in the City of Florence’s civic collections will be

shown alongside works on loan from the Galleria Il Ponte of San Giovanni Valdarno and documents conserved by B.A.Co. (Baratti Architettura e Arte Contemporanea) – Archivio Vittorio Giorgini. Displays of project drawings, period photographs, *Bollettini* newsletters, newspaper articles, letters, postcards and catalogues with dedications will permit visitors to trace the unfolding of the Florentine architect's relations with artists, critics and intellectuals of his time. An opportunity to learn more about a high-profile figure on the post-WWII cultural panorama and to reconstruct the strategic role played by the Quadrante in the Florence of the 1960s, through full immersion in what was an extraordinary gallery and season for the city, marked by an artistic ferment without equal in modern times.

One of the distinctive features of the gallery was without a doubt Vittorio Giorgini's layout. A work born of the need to optimise the very limited available space and to 'rejuvenate' a venue that risked the excessive austerity of age. The gallery was located on the first floor of an ancient palazzo on Lungarno Acciaiuoli, a sort of loft – and it was this characteristic that spurred the Florentine architect to redefine the spaces by employing innovative project solutions which later became hallmarks of all his production. The walls thus became sinuous, wavy surfaces having little to do with classical geometries and achieved the dual aim of optimising the available structure and obtaining an 'unusual' ambience, a sort of organic cavern, a highly suggestive space which will be brought back to life at the exhibition with a 'showing' of works associated with the gallery.

The project, under the scientific direction of Valentina Gensini, will be developed as an in-depth adjunct to the Museo Novecento's permanent collection and will extend into several halls on the first floor and the small exhibition room on the second. *UN PROGETTO PER L'ARTE / "QUADRANTE" (1961–1964)*, curated by Marco Del Francia, Valentina Gensini and Silvia Moretti, is promoted by the City of Florence and organised by Mus.e in collaboration with the Fondazione Architetti Firenze, the Association of Architects of Florence and B.A.Co – Archivio Vittorio Giorgini.

The museum admission ticket includes admission to the exhibition.